



**Alberta
Cattle
Commission**

GRASS routes

The Alberta Cattle Producer Monthly Update

March 1998

Call us at (403) 275-4400

Major Beef Research Initiative Will Invest \$16.4 Million

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Twenty-three research projects totaling \$7 million have been approved under the Canada-Alberta Beef Industry Development Fund.

A seven member committee, consisting of five representatives from the cattle industry and one each from the federal and provincial governments, approved the projects. The fund is administered by the Alberta Cattle Commission.

The fund is earmarked to improve the production and efficiency of the Alberta beef cattle industry. Approved research

projects fall into five broad categories. The first round of funding will be directed as follows:

- Improving productivity

and efficiency of the cow/calf sector - \$2.5 million.

- Animal health projects - \$1.5 million.
- Feedlot oriented projects - \$1.1 million.
- Manure management and sustainability - \$1 million. The research is aimed at improving water quality and identifying whether manure is contributing to water quality problems.
- To improve intellectual resources available to

beef cattle producers - \$700,000 has been allocated toward a chair in molecular genetics at the University of Alberta Faculty of Agriculture.

The federal and provincial governments contributed \$8.2 million each to the Canada-Alberta Beef Industry Development Fund. The agreement requires that the entire fund of \$16.4 million be allocated by March 1999.

Proposed Brand Inspection Privatization

Alberta **brand inspection services could soon be the responsibility of a new, not-for-profit corporation** called Livestock Identification Services (LIS).

Corporation Chairman Dale **Wilson says privatizing brand inspection will have many benefits** including:

- the ability to adapt to changing market conditions as the industry sees fit, and
- the ability to be the provincial agency for a national livestock identification program.

Wilson says LIS is **working towards a July transition** when the lower level of animal marketings will help ease the transition of the service from

government.

The new corporation is comprised of six cattle organizations: Alberta Auction Markets Association, Alberta Cattle Commission, Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association, Alberta Livestock Dealers and Order Buyers Association, Feeder Associations of Alberta and the Western Stock Growers' Association. Alberta's horse industry is expected to participate as well.

A general manager responsible for hiring staff and assuring operations run smoothly will be hired. The provincial government will have a one or two member secretariat to watch over the performance of the new agency.



CAP Program

Agriculture's importance to Alberta will be highlighted when the Classroom Agriculture Program is presented in March. Six hundred volunteers from the agriculture community will go into grade four classrooms across the province to teach 25,000 kids about food production.

**Cattle Market
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4-H L.A.W. Program

4-H members involved in livestock projects are **learning to be ambassadors for animal agriculture through a new education program called Alberta 4-H L.A.W.** (Learning about Animal Welfare).

The program was developed to inform 4-H members about the need for responsible animal care and how to respond to animal rights concerns.

The Alberta Foundation for Animal Care was instrumental in the development of the program.

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